



**Cortland County Ag,
Economic Development,
Planning & Environment
Committee Meeting
~ Agenda ~**

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
www.cortlandcountyny.gov

Thursday, August 13, 2026

11:00 AM

Room 302

View Meeting Virtually

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/245910687930367?p=v032lvJygfYo4HtBzR>

Meeting ID: 245 910 687 930 367

Passcode: f2f62yZ2

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Committee Member Reed Cleland				
Committee Member Beau Harbin				
Committee Member Paul Heider				
Committee Member Jason Prentice				
Committee Member Sandra Price				
Committee Vice-Chair Mitchell Eccleston				
Committee Chair William McGovern				

Approval of Minutes

- June 11, 2026 - Ag, Economic Development, Planning & Environment Committee Minutes**

Resolutions

ON MOTION OF WILLIAM MCGOVERN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.

Local Law H of 2026 - A Local Law Authorizing 12 and 13 Year Old Licensed Hunters to Hunt Deer with a Firearm or Crossbow During Hunting Season with the Supervision of an Adult Licensed Hunter

WHEREAS, by Local Law No. 5 of 2024, the Cortland County Legislature authorized Cortland

County to participate in the temporary program established pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law § 11-0935, permitting licensed hunters ages twelve (12) and thirteen (13) to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow under specified conditions; AND

WHEREAS, subsequent New York State legislation has extended the authorization for counties to participate in such program through 2028; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature desires to continue Cortland County's participation in the program and extend the County's authorization consistent with State law through 2028; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT ENACTED by the Cortland County Legislature as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent

The intent of this Local Law is to authorize Cortland County to permit 12 and 13 year old individuals to participate in the new and safe hunting opportunities in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law § 11-0935. The enacted 2021-2022 New York State Budget, included a pilot program, allowing the opportunity for young hunters, ages 12 and 13, to hunt deer with firearms and crossbow through 2023 if a county authorizes such action within their municipality. In 2023, the New York State Legislature extended the authorization through 2025. In 2025, New York State Legislation enacted and extended the authorization through 2028. Cortland County is passing this local law as hunting is a valued tradition for many families, and this new opportunity allows experienced, adult hunters to introduce the value of hunting to the next generation. Furthermore, teaching young people safe, responsible, and ethical hunting practices will ensure a rewarding experience for the youth, while providing quality food to families and contributing to important deer management population control practices.

Section 2. Pilot Program Authorization

Pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law, ECL 11-0935, Cortland County elects to participate in the temporary program to allow for young hunters, ages twelve (12) and thirteen (13) years, to hunt deer with a firearm, to include rifles, shotguns, and muzzle-loaded firearms or crossbow through 2028.

Section 3. State Requirements to Adhere Once Authorized

Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer with the following requirements to be followed:

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 21 years or older, with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzle loading firearm in areas where and during the hunting season in which such firearms may be used; and
- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 21 years or older, with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; and
- Supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age twenty-one (21) years or older, with at least three (3) years of experience who exercises dominion and control over the youth hunter at all times is required; and
- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters as well as their adult supervisors shall be required to wear fluorescent orange or pink clothing while engaged in hunting to an extent and covering so designated pursuant to the law, rules, and regulations promulgated by the State of New York; and
- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters shall remain at ground level while hunting deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader; and
- Notwithstanding any State or Federal Law to the contrary, this local law shall not authorize the hunting of bear by twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old with a firearm or crossbow.

Section 4. Local Law Filing Requirements

A copy of this local law shall be sent to the New York State Department of Conservation as well as the NYS Department of State.

Section 5. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law, or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, effect or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 6. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing and publication in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule.

Action Items

Monthly Reports

1. **Cornell Cooperative Extension Monthly Report**
2. **Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Report**
3. **Department of Planning & Economic Development Monthly Report**

Discussion Items

1. **Appointment to the Planning Board**

Adjournment