

Saratoga County Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on November 18, 2025

Clubs Present: Galway, Kayaderosseras, Sara Spa, 4H & White Tails, and Foot-Hills Trappers

Much discussion about Trail Cams being left overnight on state lands. It is illegal to leave them overnight now. This is new. Was not that way previously. Can leave a tree stand or a blind placed during the open season, as well as traps during the season. Must remove at end of season. The reason DEC gave was that you can't leave personal property on state lands. Very interesting! We will have to see where this goes.

The 2025 youth hunting week whitetail take was up 20%. Also, the best news is that any youth that got a deer can apply for another tag now, but it must be of the opposite sex than the deer they took during youth hunt.

The DEC cut the number of DMAP permits in Region 5. They are saying that the Deer Damage Permits (nuisance permits) are more effective for reducing crop damage and are more about culling than hunting. A lot of farmers, as well as hunters are upset over this change. Several farmers said they do not want to shoot a doe carrying fawns when nuisance permits are to be used. They will use their muzzleloader or bow to hunt when the season opens. In 2024, 6869 DMAP permits were taken. Only ~5000 deer taken with nuisance permits.

Looks like the state will be taking about 1000 acres of state land to increase the Mount Van Hoevenberg Complex to cut trees and make longer trails. This was voted in. Also appears the state is trying to take about 2500 acres from the Whitney Estate sale to offset the land being used to add to the Forest Preserve when they buy it. It looks like the deal fell through because of the restrictions the state put on the lands that could be developed. Also, In Whitney's will it was stated that the lands would not be sold to the state. Let's see where this goes.

Environmentalists won their court battle to not allow cutting trees in Forest Preserve. Trees can be cut in lands that are considered Wilderness.

In Washington County, the State is giving a permit to build a solar farm on WMA lands that the Pittman-Robertson act funds purchased. This is similar to the Vischers Ferry WMA lands that the Clifton Park Town took and banned hunting on the lands. The sportsman across the state need to stand up against these moves against hunting lands.

Kayaderosseras asked about bill on Glocks. Supposed to only affect new sales, if bill is passed. Bill is currently dead and would need to be re-introduced.

Bill for 10-day waiting period passed the senate but died in the assembly. Will need to be re-introduced.

Kayaderoseras asked about the venison donation program. Supposedly meat was going to Albany area. Not staying in Saratoga County.

4H Banquet is on 4/18/26. Will be in Queensbury.

Next meeting will be January 20, 2026, due to the holidays.