

Conservation Board

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

In Victor, we are blessed to be home to many unique natural resources - drumlins, creeks, wetlands, moraines, and kettles to name a few. The beautiful landscape is part of what makes Victor one of the fastest growing communities in our region, and whose growth must be balanced with the protection of these natural resources. Along with our Comprehensive plan, dedicated Town Officials and Boards, and involved citizenry, the Victor Conservation Board utilizes conservation easements to help strike that balance between Development and Preservation.

Conservation easements are legal agreements that allow landowners or municipalities to protect their properties from development or other forms of use for a period, or in perpetuity. In essence, conservation easements are a way for landowners to voluntarily give up some of their rights to use their land in exchange for preserving its natural, scenic, or historic value.

Conservation easements also provide benefits to the broader community. By protecting natural

resources and open space, they help to maintain biodiversity, protect wildlife habitat, and ensure the availability of clean water. They could also provide recreational opportunities, such as hiking, fishing, and hunting, that can benefit local residents and visitors.

The Town of Victor has hundreds of conservation easements within it, and in recent years, the Town has required new developments to include at least half of its developing property to remain green space, most commonly in the form of conservation easements.

Conservation easements can be placed on any type of property, including farms, ranches, forests, wetlands, and scenic landscapes. The Town of Victor has an abundance of natural resources and wildlife, and conservation easements allow residents to collectively protect these resources for years to come.

Some conservation easements allow landowners to maintain ownership and control over their land, while others are more restrictive. In some cases, landowners can continue to use their land for a variety of purposes, including

agriculture, forestry, and recreation. However, they are prohibited from engaging in activities that would damage the natural or scenic value of the land - restrictive activities to include permanent structures, pools, etc. More restrictive easements prohibit any activity within the area of the easement and are intended to be “no touch” easements.

The Town of Victor requires easements to be marked at least every 200 feet, and at each intersecting point. The most common marker is a 4” by 4” wooden post with a placard including the verbiage: **“Town Conservation Easement-Restricted Use. Call 742-5035”**. Other markers include boulders and other durable, natural markers. Once completed these easements are recorded on the property’s Deed and recorded with the Ontario County clerk. Easements survive a change in property ownership.

Conservation easements provide landowners with a way to protect their land while also benefiting the broader community. With careful planning and management, conservation easements can help to ensure that our natural resources are preserved for future generations.

