

Town of Saugerties

Conservation Advisory Commission

Meeting minutes for September 17, 2015

Present: C. Tienken Sr., C. Tienken Jr., M. O'Donnell, M. Wrolsen, R. Gehring, G. Marzec, S. Guerin, and K. Benson

Absent: L. Thornton and B. Sawchuk

Convened: 7:00 pm, Saugerties Town Hall

The August minutes were approved on a motion by M. Wrolsen and seconded by M. O'Donnell. All in favor.

G. Marzec requested a clarification regarding a letter about the Canoe Hill issue. S. Guerin has a draft letter to the Supervisor's office and will circulate the letter.

K. Benson said that he spoke to Craig Thomas pest control and they would help provide information for an info session on Lyme disease.

New Business:

Solarize Hudson Valley - M. O'Donnell set-up the presentation for Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Senior Center.

Creek Week – Mary e-mailed the events schedule to all CAC members. The Esopus Creek Conservancy is having one on Sunday, September 20 (9:00 am) that includes a presentation on the creek, wildlife, and establishment of the preserve.

Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE) - Several towns have a program to study the water quality of the Rondout Creek through this NYSDEC program. Mary stated that we may be able to establish a similar event next year on the Esopus Creek.

There is a Conference on the Environment at the Mohonk Mountain House on November 9, 2015 - The topic is cost/benefit analysis of land conservation. The cost is \$60 per person. Mary emailed this info to the CAC members today.

There is a Emerald Ash Borer task force meeting at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Kingston on September 28, 2015. Mary Anne Wrolsen will attend and film this meeting.

Old Business:

Cliff Tienken Sr. met with NYS Assemblyman Pete Lopez who stated that he hasn't forgotten us. Assemblyman Lopez realizes that the Town is ready and he is going to talk to NYS Senator George Amedore.

There is interest in designating the former Staples Brickyard on Bristol Beach as an historic site. The CAC members had some discussion about potential historic use.

Apparently, many of the remaining structures have been demolished.

Open Space Plan implementation – Mary stated that certain CAC responsibilities are outlined in the plan. These include: education forums on open space, biodiversity assessments, outreach materials, open space users guide, etc.

A discussion about conservation easements sparked many opposing points.

Mary said she would prepare an informational brochure for print after the November 9 conference. Ken suggested a link to it be posted on the CAC page on the town website, and an announcement sent to TV 23 and the Saugerties Times. All were in favor of this action.

Esopus Creek aquatic weeds issue – Mary brought up the problem with aquatic weeds in the creek this year. With the low water levels and lack of rain, milfoil (Eurasian milfoil – an

invasive aquatic plant), has become widespread. We may seek help or input from NYSDEC. Mary will draft a letter for review by all. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn Mary Anne, second Ken, all in favor.