

Town of Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

Meeting minutes for October 20th, 2011

Present: B. Sawchuk; M. Wrolsen; E. Shafer; L. Thornton; J. Barbour; J. Randall; S. Thorpe and G. Marzec

Absent: none

Convened: 7:15 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

For this meeting, B. Sawchuk invited Audrey Kropp from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County to discuss the problem of Emerald Ash borers, an invasive beetle that kills ash trees. Questions were answered during the course of the presentation.

- Ms. Kropp stated that an inventory of ash trees was performed in Saugerties village by the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP). Seven trees were found on public property, such as along sidewalks in the village.
- Survey areas are chosen based upon proximity to known infestations.
- Within 2 – 3 years of an infestation, the tree will die.
- Ulster and Greene counties are under quarantine that restricts the movement of firewood to less than 50 miles.
- A county task force is being developed. The initial meeting will be at UCCC on November 9th at 10:00 am. Jeff Wiegel, the regional forester for NYSDEC, will do a presentation. Audrey asked that we let her know if we wish to attend (audrey.kropp@gmail.com).
- Ms. Kropp stated that CRISP is available for cost estimates and plans for addressing beetle infestation and prevention.
- The most effective means of protecting valuable trees is for pesticides to be injected in a tree every 3 years. The other method of application entails soil drenching, which is less specific.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension has a list of local nurseries and recommended replacement trees for ash trees that have been removed.
- Saugerties has agreed to remove some of the trees on public property. Woodstock has also recommended removal of some trees from public property.
- E. Shafer recommended developing a brochure to disseminate information on a management program. Some elements of this brochure may already be available.
- L. Thornton suggested doing a cable TV info video of this information with Audrey for presentation on local access channel 23.

In other business:

- B. Sawchuk stated that the next meeting will be at the library (7-9 pm) on November 17th, with John Winter of the Woodstock Land Conservancy as the guest speaker for this public information session on open space. Brian is checking to confirm that Mr. Winter can attend on this date.
- S. Thorpe stated that the PPCW (Plattekill) information is all now available at the library in the History Room.
- L. Thornton stated that the county now has the watershed protection proposal that we reviewed. We are awaiting their comments, and then the proposal will be the subject of a public meeting.

- G. Marzec stated that the draft minutes for September and for this meeting will be distributed within the next two weeks.

As there were no further topics for discussion, our meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.