

## **Town of Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission**

Meeting minutes for May 21, 2015

Present: C. Tienken Sr., M. O'Donnell, C. Tienken Jr., S. Guerin, and K. Benson

Absent: G. Marzec, B. Sawchuk, M. Wrolsen, L. Thornton, and Robert Gehring

Convened: 7:00 pm, Saugerties Town Hall

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### **-GE Dredging Resolution**

Mary O would like to hold over the resolution noting that four out of the nine members were absent. She requested that no action be taken because commission members were not given the agenda prior to the meeting and therefore did not know the matter was to be voted upon. She also stated that it was agreed that agendas would be provided to members prior to the meeting. Motion by Mary to hold over and no second. Cliff Sr. mentioned his recent conversations with individuals from the Albany area who are directly affected by the dredging. Cliff Sr. stated that they were not pleased with efforts to continue dredging. Mary stated that communities in the upper Hudson River region have requested that other towns issue resolutions in support of their efforts to get GE to dredge the floodplains and canal area. Motion by Ken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cliff Sr. *To not* do the resolution. Cliff Jr. and Steven concur, *Mary O votes no.*

-Stream walk-Ken will check with Troop 31

### **-Bristol Beach**

Assemblyman Pete Lopez called Steven and said he was in the process of setting up a meeting with the Palisades Park Commission and the Town.

-TV 23 ad promo to be determined. Steven is working on it.

-CAC Stationery-Mary O designed stationery and will get the file to Terry Woods for future use by the commission.

-Conservation Easements-Mary O presented Cost Benefit Analysis studies that indicated dollars invested in open space vs. housing present a long term benefit to the community. Mary cited several studies regarding land conservation and the tax implications for property owners. One study found communities would save 1.3 billion in infrastructure cost over 20 years by limiting unplanned sprawl. Another study showed that without the option of the town's investment of \$9 million in open space and farmland protection, the Town of Warwick, Orange County, NY estimated that continued development would cost taxpayers an estimated \$4 to \$5 million per year in additional school taxes. In Webster, Monroe County, NY, the 2002 fiscal model prepared for the town and school district showed that for every dollar invested in open space conservation, town residents would save an equal dollar in avoided costs associated with growth. Hence, in that community, there was no net cost of investing in open space land acquisitions.

Cliff Jr. stated that studies do not take into account loss of income derived for individuals through loss of growth potential.

Ken was concerned about the age of the studies.

Cliff Jr. wondered how much area in Saugerties is really eligible.

Motion to do inventory of Saugerties properties that may meet Conservation Open Space criteria.  
Motion by Ken, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary O, unanimous.

-Hudson River Summit

Mary reported that the Hudson River Summit she attended presented the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda that identified five areas described as key benefit areas:

1. Clean Water
2. Resilient Communities, Vital Estuary Ecosystem
3. Estuary Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats
4. Natural Scenery, and
5. Education, River Access, Recreation, & Inspiration.

Adjourned; Motion by Ken, Cliff Sr. 2<sup>nd</sup> All approved.