

# **Town of Saugerties**

## **Conservation Advisory Commission**

Meeting minutes for June 19, 2014

Present: L. Thornton, B. Sawchuk, M. Wrolsen, C. Tienken, G. Marzec, M. O'Donnell, S. Guerin and K. Benson

Absent: J. Barbour

Convened: 7:00 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

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- The Town Board approved of a new member of the CAC, Ken Benson. Ken introduced himself and stated his interest in being a member.
- One more CAC member is needed for a total of nine. Steve Chorvas can't commit at this time. Two other possible candidates include Naomi Rothberg and Susan Weeks. There was some discussion that potential candidates should be reviewed by the commission before the Town Board approves.
- M. O'Donnell brought up the issue of the turbid releases from Ashokan Reservoir. Riverkeeper states that the scope is too narrow and that alternative analysis is needed by the DEC.
  - o L. Thornton said that there may be an extension of the deadline for comments.
  - o One of the concerns raised by the group is the need for inclusion of mitigation of the effects of the releases.
  - o There was much discussion on this topic. The Esopus below the Cantine Dam needs to be dredged due to sedimentation. S. Guerin suggested a limited dredging project to retain the Coast Guard Station. This should be in the form of a letter from Supervisor Helsmoortel to Senator Schumer.
  - o Mary will draft a letter regarding the turbidity issue, since comments are due by July 8, 2014, and email it to B. Sawchuk and others in the CAC for review.
- L. Thornton discussed issues that were brought before the Town Board at the last meeting:
  - o There is concern about about the crude oil trains traveling through populated areas. Leeanne read the Ulster County resolution that was adopted.
    - There was some discussion on this topic.
    - The Town has a streamlined version of the resolution that will be proposed. There was general consensus from the CAC to support the resolution as long as it is not as extensive as that of the County.
    - S. Guerin stated that Sen. Schumer asked the Secretary of Energy to do a non-binding notification to carriers to use utmost safety. A safety action plan is also in the works.
  - o There is a Complete Streets meeting at the Senior Center on June 26, 2014 at 7:00 pm. The issue of pedestrian safety will also be addressed.
  - o The governor's task force on emergency preparedness is also on the same day and time at the high school.
  - o A request was made of the Zoning Board to correct a provision of the zoning law that states that bulk water facilities can't store potable water over the Aquifer Protection Zone.
  - o Regarding the issue of a noise ordinance, the police now have decibel meters. There was some discussion on the accuracy of such measurements and confirmation of the source of the noise. Leeanne stated that there may be a public hearing in mid-July on

- a stream-lined noise ordinance.
- The Winston Farm concert scheduled for July is going ahead. Ticket sales, planning and site prep are all under way.
- Bristol Beach progress was also discussed:
  - C. Tienken contacted Assemblyman Pete Lopez. A letter has been sent from his office to the Palisades Park Commission (PPC) requesting a meeting with the director of the PPC and Supervisor Helmoortel.
  - M. Wrolsen said that the Economic Development Committee wants to go to Bristol Beach and view the area. This was brought up at the Village Board meeting on June 16, 2014.
- G. Marzec asked if the CAC members had a chance to review the March and April minutes. March was OK, and April needed two edits. A motion was made, seconded and approved by all, excepting K. Benson.

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