

Town of Saugerties

Conservation Advisory Commission

Meeting minutes for July 16th, 2009

Present: S. Thorpe, L. Thornton, B. Sawchuk, , E. Shafer, G. Marzec, and M. Wrolsen

Also present: B. Benepe

Absent: J. Barbour, J. Randall

Convened: 7:25 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

- B. Sawchuk provided copies of a draft letter from the CAC to Supervisor Helsmoortel regarding the Open Space Plan. All CAC members approved the draft.
- L. Thornton stated that the informational meeting with the Town Board will be on August 12th at 6:00 pm at the Senior Center.
- The public hearing for the Open Space Plan will be held towards the end of August.
- Leanne will send a letter out to all town committees to inform them of the August 12th meeting.
- The group discussed having a send-off party for Melissa Barry of Behan Associates either before or after the informational meeting.
- L. Thornton discussed the zoning regarding farm animals.
 - o Farmers are Ok in appropriate districts
 - o Only district that doesn't allow farm animals is high-density residential. An exception occurs when the animal(s) are considered pets.
 - o A case in West Saugerties was discussed.
 - o The CAC may need to review other town's regulations to see how they approach this situation.
- B. Sawchuk asked the CAC members to think of who we want to be the liaison on the Planning Board. This was one of the many recommendations made in the Open Space Plan.
- Leanne stated that all the items on the "To Do" list from Melissa have been done (these were follow-up items such as setting up meetings and providing the Open Space Plan to Ulster County).
- The CPC has made suggested improvements for water resources in the town zoning (Leanne provided a handout).
- B. Benepe stated that farming is not in the zoning and that it should be considered as open space, not just a land use.
- There was some discussion of the town's sign ordinance.
- Leanne also stated that the Town Board discussed the noise ordinance (developed by the CPC). Attorney J. Greco has written a proposed draft version (copies were provided to all). Most agreed that the enforcement aspect should be handled by the police.
- G. Marzec asked for a vote on approval of the minutes from April and May, 2009. All present voted in favor. The June minutes will be provided before the next meeting.

- G. Marzec also stated that the Biodiversity Assessment Team's map of the northeast section of town has been completed. Hudsonia will provide the map to the NYS DEC to have it digitized, making it more accessible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at ca. 9:00 pm.