

Town of Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

DRAFT Meeting minutes for March 19th, 2009

Present: L. Thornton, J. Barbour (acting Secretary), J. Randall, E. Shafer, S. Thorpe, M. Wrolsen, J. Kane (Town Planner), Melissa Barry (Behan Associates); also present: Dan Weeks (Town Planning Board) and B. Benepe (Comprehensive Planning Committee)

Absent: G. Marzek (Secretary), B. Sawchuk (Chair)

Convened: 7:00 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

Melissa Barry opened the meeting with a reminder that the process was behind schedule and the team needed to pick up the pace. She emphasized the importance of getting the town more involved before the public presentation of the Open Space Plan.

Barry then recapped the results of the landowner focus group meeting of February 19.

The committee then discussed the Climate Change section of the draft Open Space Plan. Barbour suggested that Saugerties coordinate its approach to climate change with neighboring towns, counties, New York State and emerging and future efforts to address climate change on national and global levels. Shafer recommended that we study the relationship of development patterns to climate change. Shafer also mentioned her observations of unhealthy trees on her farm, speculating that such effects may be related to climate change. Weeks noted that climate change could increase the number and level of invasive species in the town. He suggested we establish a town PRISM [meaning?] group to address the invasives problem.

Thorpe raised the issue of pollution problems in Saugerties, citing the Cashdollar (Rotron) dump (outside of the town but potentially affecting town water), and the old gas station on Manor Drive as sources of groundwater pollution.

Barry asked the committee members to think about corridors other than streams, send comments and prepare to discuss the draft Goals and Strategies section of the Open Space Plan (especially goals 5-11), and to send her any remaining comments they had on Natural Areas and Climate Change.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in the usual meeting room at Saugerties Town Hall on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 7 p.m.

The public meeting presenting the Open Space Plan will be held on Monday, April 27
[at the Senior Citizens center?]

James G. (Spider) Barbour, acting secretary