

# **Town of Saugerties**

## **Conservation Advisory Commission**

Meeting minutes for January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Present: L. Thornton, B. Sawchuk, J. Randall, E. Schafer, S. Thorpe, G. Marzec,  
M. Wrolsen and J. Barbour  
S. Dederick (CPC), P. Fitzsimmons (CPC)  
M. Welti (Behan Planning), J. Behan (Behan Planning)

Convened: 7:05 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

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This special meeting on the town's Open Space Plan was convened by the CAC and members of the CPC with the consultants, Behan Planning, to discuss planning for the public hearing.

- L. Thornton gave an overview of the public hearing process for next week.
- J. Randall raised two questions posed to him by Barry Benepe:
  - o Forest clear-cutting as a land disturbance.
    - P. Fitzsimmons stated that the CPC is working on two new sections for resource protection and management.
  - o Conservation subdivision – referenced in the Open Space Plan.
- S. Thorpe et al. expressed difficulty in accessing the latest version of the Plan. Behan will follow-up on the accessibility issue.
- M. Welti discussed the format of the public hearing. There will be a 10 minute presentation on the Plan followed by a question and answer session. (Note – speaker will be asked to sign-up for a turn at the podium to present their views.
- J. Behan asked the group about what items we want to highlight, i.e. what does “success” look like in the next five year?
- E. Schafer stressed the importance of stating that the Plan is a community effort and included public involvement in its development – it's not a “top-down” approach.
- S. Dederick questioned the primacy of the Plan – i.e. what precedes what regarding zoning, the Open Space Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.
- P. Fitzsimmons questioned the recommendation of having a climate change committee and suggested that perhaps the focus should be on more imminent natural disasters.
  - o G. Marzec suggested that planning for some effects of climate change should begin now (e.g. rise of sea level and potentially affected areas).
- Pat also had a question on the financing that will raise money for conservation.
  - o M. Welte had several suggestions including bonds.
  - o Pat stressed that the Plan itself doesn't propose an increase in taxes for this purpose.
  - o J. Behan stated that we should be careful in presenting a false scenario that isn't what the plan truly proposes.
- J. Behan again asked what we would like to see in five years, or conversely, what we wouldn't like to see in five years.
  - o Each of the CAC members gave some suggestions.

- Pat suggested that a workshop of some CAC and some CPC members be formed to work on revising the Comprehensive Plan.

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