

Town of Saugerties

Conservation Advisory Commission

Meeting minutes for February 17th, 2011

Present: B. Sawchuk; J. Randall; M. Wrolsen; E. Shafer; L. Thornton; Sandra Thorpe; J. Barbour

Absent: G. Marzec

Convened: 7:15 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

- There was an extended discussion of the Turbidity Report from a meeting organized by the D.E.P. and the D.E.C in the wake of a storm in December 2010 causing great turbidity. Brian Sawchuk said that the purpose of the meeting was to educate people on two watersheds: the Schoharie Watershed and the Catskill Watershed. A CD was made of the meeting.
- Sandra Thorpe said that PCCW (Coalition to Preserve the Plattekill Creek Watershed) has an enormous amount of records and materials on local and regional resources, which she would like to have available for education and public information at a location accessible to the public: perhaps at the Library.
- Leanne Thornton said that the Town is looking into using a new kind of de-icing salt; the cost is higher initially but less is needed. It is considered safe, effective, and environmentally responsible.
- Leanne also said that Patti Kelly and Greg Helmsmoortel plan to attend a meeting of towns on behalf of Saugerties, promoting green technology.
- Regarding an upcoming public meeting about the section on Water Resources in the Zoning ordinance, including definitions and guidelines for permitted uses: a consultant, Karen Schaller McDonald, is preparing a list of FAQs.
- Concerning the preparation of a pamphlet on the Saugerties O.S.P. (Open Space Plan) for distribution at Farmers Markets and other venues: Josh Randall said he is working on this and will give a progress report at our next meeting.
- Josh also made a motion that we accept the Minutes from our last meeting; this motion was seconded and accepted.
- Leanne Thornton had to go a little early, but before leaving she gave us extensive information on all the initiatives that the Town is involved with in promoting the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration--such as a benefit Dinner at the Lazy Swan on April 8th. She urged us to get involved in this and the many other initiatives.
- Regarding Opus 40; only a small part of this is being considered for purchase and preservation: the obelisk, the museum building, and a parking area. There was a discussion of the grants and the public funds considered for obtaining and preserving it.
- There was a discussion of Conservation Easements and how to promote these. Josh Randall knows someone at the Mohonk Land Trust and offered to contact this person to come to talk with us.
- In coordination with this, if appropriate, Lizbeth Shafer could contact Seth McKee, the Land Trust Officer at Scenic Hudson who helped in 1994 obtain an Easement Conservation for Anchorage Farm, to come and talk with us.
- There was a discussion of Endangered Species, timber rattlesnakes, copperheads and feral cats.

As there were no further topics for discussion, our meeting was adjourned.

Submitted respectfully - Lizbeth Shafer