

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

Saugerties Town Hall Conference Room

August 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Brian Sawchuk, Steve Guerin, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Cliff Tienken, Cliff Tienken, Jr., Mary O'Donnell, Kenneth Benson.

Absent: Gerry Marzec, Spider Barbour, Leeanne Thornton.

EMERALD ASH BORER

Mary Anne Wrolsen updated the commission regarding Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a destructive invasive species that poses a threat to our forests. She stated that there are DEC restrictions on transporting logs that have been infested by the beetle in order to prevent the spread of the invasive species. She emphasized the importance of making the public aware of issues regarding infested trees on private property, learning how to identify the presence of EAB, state permit requirements to transport infested logs, and suggested that the commission devote its October meeting to a public forum on EAB. Room availability at the Senior Center for October 16 needs to be confirmed. The meeting date and time needs to be publicized.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Mary Anne attended the last Planning Board meeting and reported that there was no matter before the board that required commission attention.

OPEN SPACE PLAN BROCHURE

Brian reported that he obtained the disc with the brochure created by Josh Randall. Mary O'Donnell will check to see if she can print it from her Microsoft Publisher software.

NOISE ORDINANCE

It was reported that the Town Board held a meeting to receive public comments on a proposed noise ordinance. Many spoke against the proposed ordinance. The need for it, its enforceability, what activities/events would require permits under the ordinance, were all questioned.

DREDGING OF ESOPUS CREEK BELOW THE DAM

Steve recommended that the Town Board write a forceful letter to our federal representative, Senator Charles Schumer, requesting that money be appropriated from the 2015 federal budget to dredge the Esopus Creek below the Cantine Dam. He emphasized the need for dredging due to the silting of the creek from the release of turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir by the DEP during the past four years,, the importance of keeping the creek navigable for the Coast Guard stationed in the area, and the economic benefits derived from the creek being a navigable body of water that flows into the Hudson River. Mary stated that the silt from the releases and storms have also lowered the depth of the creek above the dam agreeing the silting was of greater concern for the lower creek.

BOY SCOUT PROJECT

Brian suggested a rain garden or a flower garden as possible projects for interested scouts.

OPEN SPACE PLAN

Brian asked that commission members review goals in the Open Space Plan for discussion at the next meeting.

STAGGERED TERMS

Brian reported that Leeanne found that there is no prohibition against staggered terms of office for commission members. Mary asked for clarification on the term of office for Cliff, Jr.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Mary O'Donnell