

Town of Saugerties

Conservation Advisory Commission

Meeting minutes for August 19th, 2010

Present: Sandra Thorpe; Josh Randall; Mary Anne Wrolsen; Elizabeth Shafer; Brian Sawchuk, Chairperson; Leeanne Thornton, Town Board Liason; G. Marzec

Absent: J. Barbour

Convened: 7:20 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

- S. Thorpe had several topics to discuss with the group:
 - o The article about the Saugerties water supply that appeared in the Saugerties Times mentioned potential water rationing because of the recent drought. The picture that accompanied the article must have been taken another time, because very little water was flowing over the dam.
 - o Sandra suggested that if the town were considering development of swimming resources on the Hudson, a “pool” could be established similar to the one in Newburgh. The pool is a cleaned and sectioned-off area of the river that receives flushing from the currents.
 - o On a similar note, the possibility of developing Bristol Beach was mentioned. This was discussed in the past as one of the areas on the NY State list, but was not a likely candidate on their list.
- J. Randall reported on the recent Planning Board meeting he attended. Two topics were discussed:
 - o Some of the issues surrounding the Ravensbeard facility near Turkey Point included boundary disputes and potential land uses. An aviary is being considered on the site. The contract with Scenic Hudson only allows one house and one out-building.
 - o Highland Cliffs was the primary focus of the meeting.
 - Potentially insufficient water pressure for fire hydrants.
 - Scaled back to 65 apartments.
 - Josh had a copy of the plans and we reviewed the considerations regarding stormwater, roads and water supply.
 - o Josh was asked to explain conservation easements to address interest of some of the Planning Board members. He did some research on local conservancies and provided informational handouts.
- G. Marzec reported on the first meeting of the Comprehensive Plan update workgroup. The meeting was an introduction to the process and to the members of the working group. J. Kane, Town Planner, was the facilitator of the meeting.
 - o Topics included:
 - Discussion of intent and process,
 - Expectations and goals of the update, and
 - Integration of recent work, studies, and plans.
 - o Meetings will occur on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.
- G. Marzec asked for clarification of the liaisons appointed to the Planning Board (J. Randall, with J. Barbour as an alternate), E. Shafer and G. Marzec are in the CP update working group. The minutes from July will be revised to reflect this.

- J. Randall motioned to accept the CAC minutes from May and June. B. Sawchuk seconded. All in favor.
- L. Thornton brought us up to date on some issues before the Town Board:
 - o There was additional discussion at the last meeting about the town's sign ordinance and enforcement of the ordinance.
 - o The town's 200th Birthday Committee has started and there were discussion about possible activities for the event in 2011.
 - o Since funding is difficult, external fund-raising will need to take place to support this effort.

As we had no further agenda items to discuss, a motion was made and seconded at 8:50 pm, for our meeting to adjourn.