



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2015

Present: Bob Ulrich, Don Allard, Mike Brennan, Sudhir Kulkarni and Laura Weed

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Bob Ulrich

Bob Ulrich noted that Ellen Rosano has the minutes of the last meeting, and will be sending them to everyone.

The meeting began with a discussion of the **Foegtli Farms PDD project** which is scheduled for construction at 499-507 Albany Shaker Rd. Laura Weed noted that there had been a discussion of the project at a town board meeting on May 19, 2015, and that local residents had received a letter advocating acceptance of the project from Peter Ziamandanis of Palatial Builders, who plans to construct the project. The letter claims that the project will maintain 66% green space and argues that traffic and development will be less for the 80 condo 55+ development that is proposed than it would be if full-lot single family houses were put in the area. The CAC is very concerned about the wetlands on the property, which do not appear to be protected on the plans, despite what the builder says, and about the population density that the builder is proposing. We do not accept Ziamandanis' argument that traffic will be less with 80+ senior residents than it would be with far fewer families. Sudhir also gave a planning board report on this project, which appears below. Bob Ulrich will write to the town board with our concerns about the project.

Conservation Day follow-up

Laura Weed gave the **trees report from our Conservation Day** on May 2, 2015. Paul Rosano and I counted approximately 200 people at the event.

The order and times at which the trees were taken were:

Type of trees	# ordered	time that trees ran out
1. Dwarf Sand Cherry	50	9:06 am.
2. Douglas Fir	100	9:15
3. Wetland Rose	50	9:24
4. Toringo Crabapple	100	10:00
5. Red Pine	100	10:17
6. Button Bush	100	10:18
7. Pussy Willow	200	10:33
8. Beach Plum	200	10:40
9. Red Stem Dogwood	200	11:00
10. Bristly Locust	100	11:15
11. Silky Dogwood	200	11:33
12. Elderberry	200	11:45

In discussion of Conservation Day follow-up, several members pointed out that our pre-event publicity could be improved. Suggestions offered were that the library should have a listing of the trees available sooner, we should advertise earlier and we should use the Key club members more in our advertising. Bob suggested that we could have additional desks set up with more information distributed. The DEC and Garden Club bee protectors groups were very well received and kept busy with questions, as was Cornell Cooperative extension. Mike suggested Soil Testing could be added.

Planning Board Report

Sudir Kulkarni gave the Planning Board report for May 19:

1. Foegtli Farms PDD project 499-507 Albany Shaker Rd. Many neighbors complained about the project density and the additional traffic problems that will be caused on Albany Shaker Rd, which already backs up to the Albany City line every rush hour. Sketch Plan review: no conclusion was reached by the board.
2. Canterbury Crossings - Additonal Home Elevations were approved. The concept acceptance request was approved.

3. 31 British American Blvd- waiver requested for 23 additional parking spaces-approved.
4. Stewart shops Troy-Schenectady rd. Case plan review for a new convenience store near Delatour Drive next to the Salvation Army Store. The board requested more detail on curb cuts and ingress and egress plans. It was a Sketch Plan review, and the board determined that no SEQR was required.
5. The Aesthetic Science Institute at 922 Troy-Schenectady Rd. at the former Russ and Rebel location. The school will be 10, 100 square feet, and two stories tall. The board gave concept approval.

Further Discussions

DEC meeting: Bob Ulrich pointed out that we all had received an invitation from Mike Lyons and Ingrid Haeckel to attend DEC Central Office meeting on June 8th. No one present was able to attend, however. Bob said that he would request that information be sent by the commission to the CAC.

Laura Weed gave a report from Riverkeeper, which was very happy with Gov. Cuomo's ban on Fracking in NYS. The group had also contributed to successes in preventing the hijacking of federal clean water funds to pay for the Tapanzee Bridge construction project, and preventing the Niagara bottling company from exporting water from the Esopus creek. They are also fighting plans to desalinate the Hudson and supporting financial commitments to new clean water infrastructure. Mike pointed out how much fracking had destroyed the water in Bradford, PA, and Sudhir discussed how severe the water problems are in California.

The bulletin boards were done by Don Allard on Conservation Day, and Bob liked them so much that he suggested leaving them up another month. Laura will, therefore, do Bulletin Boards in July.

At 8:10 Don motioned to adjourn and Sudhir seconded. The meeting was adjourned.