



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2015

Attendees: Bob Ulrich, Chairman and members Don Allard, Mike Brennan, Sudhir Kulkarni, Ellen Rosano, Laura Weed and Linda Whelton.

There were no previous minutes to approve as there was no quorum for the August 20, 2015 meeting and the September 3, 2015 was cancelled due to the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

Assignments for the remainder of 2015 for Planning Board meetings and bulletin boards were reviewed. Don Allard will be covering October and December, with Sudhir Kulkarni taking November. The schedule for 2016 is as follows:

- January Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Ellen Rosano
- February Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Ellen Rosano
- March Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Mike Brennan
- April Planning Board – Don Allard
- April Bulletin Boards – Linda Whelton
- May Planning Board – Don Allard
- May Bulletin Boards – Linda Whelton
- June Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Laura Weed
- July Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Laura Weed
- August Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Mike Brennan
- September Planning Board – Linda Whelton
- September Bulletin Boards – Don Allard
- October Planning Board – Linda Whelton
- October Bulletin Boards – Don Allard
- November Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Sudhir Kulkarni
- December Planning Board and Bulletin Boards – Sudhir Kulkarni

Linda Whelton attended the Planning Board meeting of September 15. Items of interest to the CAC included:

- Natick Hills Conservation Subdivision – This is a 34 acre site at 362 Vly Road which is to be divided into 32 lots. About 10.5 acres are DEC and federal wetlands; 25% of the land is steep slope. There is a conservation overlay and the TDE has concerns about roadways over wetlands, contiguous open space and storm water management.
- Crisafulli Professional Building (407 Albany Shaker Road) – There was neighborhood concern about preserving some existing trees, which has been agreed to. The developer wanted a waiver for fewer parking spaces, but the local fire district had concerns about moving fire apparatus around in case of an emergency, so there will be more parking and smaller islands to maneuver around.
- Midway Fire District and Auto Zone in Latham – There were no discussions relative to CAC concerns.

An article in a recent edition of the Times Union discussing colony collapse disorder in honeybees and its increasing scientific link to pesticides called neonicotinoids was reviewed.

The following site plans were reviewed:

- Midway Fire District – It appears that an existing grove of trees behind the existing firehouse will be preserved, but Bob Ulrich will verify this.
- 645 Boght Road – This is an approximately 18 acre plot that will be subdivided into 23 residential lots. There will be 35% green space, but it is being developed above an aquifer. This is of concern to the CAC.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the role of the CAC in the Town and what the Council should do going forward to be more assertive and influential when new development is proposed. Of particular interest is the preservation of existing mature trees that currently are just being bulldozed without consideration of how they can be worked into the plan design early in the process.