



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes January 19, 2012

Present: Chairperson Diane Davies, Counsel Jack Spath, members Don Allard, Ellen Rosano and Laura Weed. Absent: Sudhir Kulkarni, George Palmer and Bob Ulrich.

A motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was presented by Ellen Rosano, and seconded by Don Allard.

Chairperson Davies pointed out that the link on the website to the native plantings atlas does not work very well. She also pointed out that we will henceforward have to post our meeting agendas and minutes on the web site to satisfy Freedom of Information Law requirements.

George Palmer plans to attend the Green Infrastructure training meeting on Jan 31st at the Crossings Park and report to the committee on the program.

Ellen Rosano reported on the early January **Planning Board Meeting**:

- KJ Electric Co. did not show up for its presentation on a proposed building on Railroad Ave.
- The Zeh Family presented a proposal to add a 12' wide, crushed stone driveway to their private home plan off Bacon Lane. Prior to this proposal the plans for the home had been rejected because the home had no frontage on any town road. The planning board insisted that the access road should be 14-15' wide, and did not accept the Zeh's plan for a 12' wide access road.
- The ICS Waste Transfer station received approval to develop a site at the beginning of Railroad Ave, adjacent to the old NL Industries superfund site. ICS was looking for a way to recycle and dispose of building materials, such as old shingles. The New York State Department of Conservation recommended to ICS that they develop a larger site than they had initially planned so that they could handle up to 30 tons a day of other contractors' building waste as well as their own. DEC assisted ICS in obtaining necessary permits and planning site development. The site has access to rail lines abutting the property, which will assist in shipping waste to recycling centers. The plan was approved.

All present conducted a **site review for Capital Communication Federal Credit Union**, which plans to re-develop the old Pontiac dealership at 976 Loudon Rd, as its corporate headquarters. Cap Com plans a net increase of the greenspace on the property to 51.3% of the project, for a total of 30,425 sq. ft. The site will house a four story 74,360 sq. ft. building. A storm water management basin is included to collect water runoff on the site.

Jack Spath mentioned that John Dzialo, Town of Colonie Storm Water Management Officer, had been consulted on the storm water runoff basin for the Cap Com project. Committee members suggested that we should consult with Mr. Dzialo about the process involved in controlling storm water within the town.

The committee saw no issues with the Cap Com project.

Following up on the **native plantings** project, Ellen spoke with Mike Kaplan of Nagengast Landscaping to see if they highlight native plantings in their designs and orders. They do not. Diane spoke with someone at Faddegon's Nursery, who promised to give her a list of native plants. Diane learned that invasive species of perennials are a greater problem than non-native annuals because the annuals do not self-propagate.

The committee continued our planning for **Conservation Day on May 5th**.

- Diane will invite someone from the Pine Bush Preserve to participate in our event.
- She will also ask John Dzialo to present information about rain barrels at the event.
- We will include a poster board with pictures of the rain garden in front of the Operations Center.
- Don Allard will bring his composter to demonstrate home composting.
- Sarah Weist has agreed to list the event in the *Colonie Chronicle* and we will also advertise in the local *Spotlight* Newspaper.
- Sudhir Kulkarni has agreed to do posters of information on the plants, and procure certificates to award to the participating high school key club students.
- Sudhir will be the contact for the Shaker High School Key Club and George Palmer will be the contact for the Colonie Central High School Key Club.
- Someone also needs to update the large poster from last year, which Michelle has.

Diane Davies requested a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Ellen Rosano moved the motion and Laura Weed seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Weed