



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 2, 2012

Present: Chairperson Diane Davies, Counsel Jack Spath, Members Ellen Rosano, George Palmer, and Laura Weed

Diane Davies asked for a motion for acceptance of the amended minutes of the previous meeting, including changes suggested by Sudhir Kulkarni, Ellen Rosano moved it, and George Palmer seconded it. The minutes were approved.

Applied Green Infrastructure Design Workshop

George Palmer had attended the all day Green Infrastructure (GI) Training on Jan. 31, 2012, and he reported to the committee on practices recommended in the NYSDEC storm water management manual for storm water pollution prevention (SWPPP). One of the main directives in the report is that developers can no longer increase the impact of water run-off on surrounding areas when altering terrain. Chair Davies requested that all members bring our copies of the report to our next meeting for further discussion. George also distributed a NYSDEC list of invasive plants to all members.

Announcements

- The town plans to stop having easements on property and replace them with deed restrictions on adjoining properties. Sable Woods is one of the first projects impacted by this change.
- The Town has plans for a new park on River Road. Joe LaCivita will attend one of our meetings to discuss the plans with us.
- Troy Weldy of the Nature Conservancy is working with Diane to assemble a native species list. Diane hopes to have it together for distribution on Conservation Day, May 5th.

Planning Board Report

Ellen Rosano reported on the January Planning Board meetings:

- Norton medical Office applied for a time extension for their site plan. It was granted.
- The Stewart's shop at Vly Rd. and Rt. 7 will increase their greenspace by 3%. The total is still below the required 35% greenspace, but they are grandfathered in because this is a renovation rather than a new project. The developers will add a berm, and extend the landscaping and the fence to shield the back of the building from Rt. 7. The developers also agreed to post signs and monitor parking on Vly Rd. to protect the neighbors' children and driveways from intrusion by Stewarts' customers.
- The Salvation Army's new site on Rt. 2 will feature 48% greenspace. The neighbors lobbied to have the aesthetics of the building improved, and the developers agreed.
- Ventura Development's project on Bought Rd. impacts some wetlands. The Town Board requested that the developer revisit the layout of the project, to cluster the houses more closely, both for the sake of protecting the wetlands and to limit the impact of the project on neighbors.

Site Review: Joe's Crab Shack

Joe's Crab Shack is taking over the property on Rt. 7 that was formerly the Dakota Steak House, adjacent to the Latham Farms Shopping Plaza. The developers plan an 8,180 sq. ft. building, with 33% green space. This represents a decrease in green space of several hundred sq. feet, over the prior property. We recommended an increase in the green space for the new development. There seems to be extensive parking that could feature periodic trees or plantings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. moved by Ellen Rosano, seconded by George Palmer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Weed