



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes March 1, 2012

Present: Diane Davies, chair, Jack Spath, Counsel, Paul Rosano, Town Board Liaison, George Palmer, Don Allard, Ellen Rosano. Bob Ulrich, and Laura Weed.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. Diane Davies passed out contact sheets with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail listings for each of us so that we could get in contact with one another if necessary.

Planning Board Report presented by George Palmer:

Feb 7 - The Capital Communications Project on Rt. 9 received concept acceptance.

The DiBenedetto Dance Studio was approved for 20 additional parking spaces.

Funeral Directors' Support Services on South Family Drive and Sand Creek Rd. will be reviewed by the Shaker Heritage Society for archeological potential.

Feb 14 - The Stewart's Shop proposed at Wade Rd. ext. and Forts Ferry Rd. was submitted for sketch plan review. The proposal features a tiny plot of land but 35% green space.

The Scaringe open development area on upper Loudon Rd. was approved for a single family home. An easement was granted on a neighbor's property to allow road access.

An extensive discussion arose over the Joe's Crab Shack adjacent to Latham Farms, concerning the access road between the site and Applebee's. The town wants an access road, but neither the Crab shack nor Applebee's wants one. The Crab Shack threatened to cancel the project if the town insisted on the access road, and the town passed on it.

The Albert mixed use development project at 840-844 Troy-Schenectady Rd. was tabled for concept approval. Top Tile wants to develop a tile store, a warehouse and an eleven unit apartment complex. Neighbors objected to the apartment building on the grounds that it would increase traffic, light and noise in the area.

Ellen Rosano will do the March and April Planning Board Meetings.

Site Review:Siena College Center for Education:

Siena College plans to build and 8,000 sq. ft. building on a site on the campus that consists of 23, 225 sq. ft of land. The site will include 53% green space, but we will request that they redesign their landscape to feature native plantings rather than the invasive species that they had in their original plan. The building will feature eco-friendly designs including a geothermal heat pump and high efficiency construction materials.

Conservation Day Planning:

Diane is contacting Jack Cunningham about how we procure mulch for Conservation Day, now that Waste Management rather than the town manages the dump. Diane also distributed lists of native and invasive species from the DEC. Paul Rosano pointed out that it would be very helpful to have lists assembled to hand out to developers, to give them direction in landscaping. We are also planning to distribute the lists on Conservation Day.

Bob Ulrich suggested that we find better tree packing processes for the night before Conservation Day. We have the Key clubs from Shaker and South Colonie coming, but Bob suggested that more people be involved.

Don Allard pointed out that Bethlehem is trying to convert Delaware Ave. into a Main Street, featuring walkable neighborhoods, and environment with sidewalks and buffers, and extended walkways. Paul Rosano commented that town land use law already state a preference for walkable areas and Main Street-type ambiance.

A motion to adjourn was submitted by George and seconded by Bob.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Weed