



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes May 17, 2012

The meeting of the Colonie Conservation Advisory Council was called to order at 7pm. Members in attendance were Chair Diane Davies, Counsel Jack Spath, and members Ellen Rosano, George Palmer, Sudhir Kulkarni, Don Allard, Bob Ulrich and Laura Weed.

The minutes for April 5th were moved for acceptance by George Palmer and seconded by Sudhir Kulkarni, and for April 19th were moved for acceptance by Ellen Rosano and seconded by Bob Ulrich.

April 24, 2012 Planning Board Report: George Palmer

Lia Retail 860 Loudon Rd.: Requested approval for a minor site plan waiver to allow for additional parking and alignment of the building with the Red Robin restaurant. The waiver was approved.

Capital Bank 581 Loudon Rd.: the space is currently an empty lot. The builder requested additional parking. Neighbors voiced concerns about the increase in traffic, but the waivers to the sketch plan were approved.

Ventura Subdivision 560 Bought Rd.: Requested concept acceptance for a 30 lot subdivision, within the conservation overlay. It was approved.

KJ Electric 146 Railroad Ave.: Requested Concept acceptance for a 13,920 sq. ft. warehouse and office building. It was accepted.

Don Allard is doing the bulletin boards for May on Composting and Conservation Day, and Bob Ulrich will report on the May Planning Board Meetings.

Site Reviews:

CMS Retail 641 Loudon Rd. This proposal is for a re-development of what was once a welding shop and house at the intersection of Hoffman Rd. and Rt. 9. The proposal is for 8000 sq. ft. of retail space. We noted that the plan included 35% green space, which is good, but the plantings included winged euonymus /burning bush, an invasive species.

Shaker Plaza 447 Albany Shaker Rd. This proposal is for a re-development of 12,320 sq. ft. of retail space including a bank and other retail establishments. The plan includes 39% green space, but is unspecific about species of plants. We would like to see non-invasive plants included in the final plan.

Northern Pass PDD: 1226, 1236 and 586 Old Loudon Rd.: The developers are requesting an exception to the zoning rules and permission to develop within the Conservation Overlay district Article VII, Chaps 190-197. The plan includes

- 47 single family residences and six eight-unit multi-family buildings
- a two-story office building of 8550 sq. ft. and 38 parking spaces, and
- 68 twin home residential units.

The developers will construct 4, 338 linear feet of roadway which will be conveyed to the town. The committee members expressed concern about the wetland impact, but as long as the Army Corp of Engineers is involved in the decision making about the wetlands on this project, we will defer to them. We recommend saving mature trees as much as possible.

Conservation Day Report:

The tree-packing Friday night, May 4th went very well with the assistance of the Shaker High and Colonie Central High Key Clubs, and Brian and Michelle from the town. People were lining up at the Library on Sat. May 5th to receive trees by 8:00 am, and the line was very long by 9:00 am, when we began to give out trees. All trees were gone by 9:50 am. The order in which the trees were taken was 1. Nannyberry, 2. Balsam Fir, 3. Norway Spruce, 4. Red Osier Dogwood, 5. Service Berry, 6. Red Oak, and 7. Black Cherry.

Bob suggested that next year we need to either order more trees, or more strictly limit the number of seedlings we pack in a bag, or the number that we will allow each person to take. He also suggested that we might collaborate with the Pryne Houses' annual plant sale next year. Diane will check to see if this is feasible.

Don took numerous pictures of both the packing event and the distribution event, which he will share with Sarah Wiest for the Chronicle and the High School Key Clubs. Diane also suggested that some of Don's pictures be posted on our web site.

We will buy presents for Michelle and Brian for helping us out. The Key Club members received certificates, prepared by Laura.

Future Plans:

Bob suggested that we investigate and inform ourselves on a wider variety of environmental issues. We already have plans to meet with Army Corp of Engineers, which Diane is arranging. Bob suggested that we also investigate hydro fracking, solar traffic lights, energy-saving technology in building materials, and water conservation efforts. Other local communities are issuing statements on some of these matters, and we might consider that, also. Sudhir is going to investigate this issue, and George pointed out that many of our local developers are actually experts in this area who have been incorporating green practices in their projects for a long time. We might ask for a presentation on best practices from some of these contractors. Laura agreed to attend the energy seminar being presented at the College of St. Rose by Congressman Paul Tonko, and report on it at the next meeting. Bob will also check to see if the town building dept. currently requires electricity and water conservation in new buildings.

Don moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20, and Ellen seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Weed