



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes June 7, 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, George Palmer, Ellen Rosano, Don Allard, Bob Ulrich, and Laura Weed.

The minutes for the May meetings were moved for acceptance by George Palmer and seconded by Ellen Rosano.

Chair Diane Davies reported that she has e-mailed Mr. Dangler of the Army Corp of Engineers, concerning our upcoming educational field trip on wetlands.

Planning Board Report: Tues. May 22, 2012, by Bob Ulrich

- A cemetery lot was rezoned single residential
- Concept Acceptance was granted for a single family adult home
- The **Siena College** Dorm and Loop Rd. was approved.
- **Northern Pass Development:** 1226 New Loudon Rd. The developer requested rezoning for the 72 unit development. He wants to donate 30 acres in the rear of the property, adjoining the Town of Colonie Bike Path to the town, in order to relieve himself of insurance liability for dirt bike riding that is occurring on the site.

Planning Board Report: Tues. June 5, 2012, Reported by Don Allard

- **Windsor Estates Creekside:** A request for change in zoning from industrial to residential was approved. The developers SEQR was also granted. Six of seven building lots had already been approved, and the developer was seeking approval of the seventh.
- **CMS Retail at 641 Loudon Rd.** Developers requested 3 waivers: for parking in front of the building, for setback adjustments and for a sidewalk on the side of the building rather than in the front. Neighbors expressed concerns about a sixteen foot tall retaining wall in the rear of the property, and the possibility of icing on the road. The developer has agreed to meet with the neighbors to resolve their issues.
- **Precision Valve and Automation at 1 Mustang Dr.** Requested permission for expansion of their building into the existing parking lot. Proposal was accepted.
- **Maxwell Rd. PDD** This clustered development project has added a homeowners association, which wants to move 35% green space management from town authority to the authority of the homeowners' association. This proposal will be submitted to the Town Board.

Site Reviews

- **Restaurant Depot 22 Warehouse Row:** This is a first submission of a request for re-development of an existing warehouse. 29% green space was proposed. We requested fewer parking spaces, solar lighting and more green space.
- **Lazare Kia 144 Wolf Rd.** This is a redevelopment project which involves extending the buildings into the existing parking space. The proposed green space is 22%. We requested the addition of more green space through the addition of planters and roof vegetation on the flat roof.

Other Conservation Business:

Rebekah Nellis Kennedy will provide the council with information on the conservation overlay.

Diane has sent Thank You notes to the participants in Conservation Day, especially Michelle and Brian. She is also working on the combined list of invasive and native plants, based on the DEC and Cornell Cooperative extension lists. . It will be posted on our website and, with Joe LaCivita's assistance, distributed to developers.

Laura Weed reported on the Capital Region Energy Forum lecture by Congressman Paul Tonko at the College of Saint Rose. Charts were distributed to the group highlighting increases in domestic oil production in the last three years, and the fact that there is very little co-relation between domestic oil production and the price of gasoline, which is determined by global supply and demand. Also, charts specifying that the price of crude oil is 76% of the price of gasoline, and that in 2011, the profits of Exxon Mobile, Shell, BP, Chevron and Conoco Phillips increased by 75% to \$137 Billion, were distributed. Congressman Tonko also pointed out that Obama Administration conservation legislation requires that vehicles get an average of 54.5 mpg by 2025, which will save 12 billion barrels of oil and bring our dependence on foreign oil down to 30%. (It was 60% in 2008 and fell below 50% for the first time in 2010.) These measures will save consumers \$1.7 trillion in fuel costs and eliminate 6 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution.

Don Allard pointed out that Albany Street is a major bike commuting path between Albany and Schenectady. He will write a letter to the Town Board requesting "Share the Road" signs for Albany Street. He also requested that we keep an eye out for other major bike lanes, and request that road construction in the future be more accommodating to bicycle commuting.

Ellen reminded us that we should visit the kettle bog in July.

Laura is in charge of Planning Board meetings for July and August, as well as bulletin boards. She plans to do a bulletin board on hydro-fracking, in response to questions from the committee about her Energy Forum presentation.

Motion to adjourn at 8pm by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Don Allard; The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Weed