

# **Town of Saugerties**

## **Conservation Advisory Commission**

Meeting minutes for May 21st, 2009

Present: L. Thornton, B. Sawchuk, J. Barbour, S. Thorpe, J. Randall,  
E. Shafer, G. Marzec, M. Wrolsen, J. Kane, Melissa Barry (Behan Associates)  
Also present: Amanda Lavallo (Ulster County Dept of Environment)

Absent: none

Convened: 7:00 pm, Saugerties Town Hall.

---

- There is SEQRA training on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8 pm at the Senior Center. All CAC members are invited.
- S. Thorpe stated that the Esopus Bend Conservancy will have its next meeting in June.
- M. Barry proceeded with an agenda for the continuing work on the Open Space Plan.
  - Melissa provided a hand-out that summarized the public meeting held in April.
  - Melissa provided a draft copy of the Agricultural Resources section of the Plan. Please review and return comments to Melissa as soon as possible.
  - Melissa stated that the intent and name of the town's current low-density and moderate density residential districts do not reflect the importance of agriculture in Saugerties and this should be corrected. She also noted that the town's zoning could be improved to be more friendly to agricultural landowners in various aspects.
- L. Thornton stated that the last public meeting has been filmed and is being aired on TV23.
- There was a brief discussion on the content of an e-mail from V. Benjamin to the CAC.
- J. Barbour suggested mapping the Town to the level of detail found in the biodiversity maps.
- The Vision Map for the Open Space Plan was discussed along with suggested changes.
- The main goal should be education of the public as to the value of conservation.
  - J. Kane stated that the Mohonk Preserve Trust is willing to help with land trust issues in the Town.
  - The Trust for Public Lands may also be able to help with an educational campaign, and eventually a bond bill to raise funds.
  - B. Sawchuk stated that we need some short-term goals (or products) and long-term goals (e.g. climate change) to provide the Town residents some tangible goals. A component of that would be education. Start with a build-out analysis and use this in the education process.
  - Melissa stated that some degree of build-out analysis will be included in the Plan. She will check with her office on the extent of the analysis.
- Melissa went over the process for finishing the Plan (provided in a hand out).
  - There will be a joint CAC/Town Board meeting tentatively set for August 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Information will be presented to the Town Board by Melissa on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - CAC members should review the draft report before the next meeting. Melissa will send the report via e-mail and will provide hard copies to those who prefer that medium.

- G. Marzec stated that the minutes for this meeting and for the April meeting will be completed before the next meeting.
- A. Lavalley gave a brief summary of the Ulster County Dept of Environment's activities. Since it was late, Amanda said she could come back another time and provide more info to the CAC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.