

Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes of September 24, 2018 meeting

Present: Roxanne Marino, Don Ellis, Bara Hotchkiss, Robert Oswald, Sue Poelvoorde, Nancy Zahler

Excused: Andy Hillman, Brice Smith,

Roxanne called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Roxanne submitted the draft minutes for the June 27th meeting for review and approval. Don moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Robert seconded. Approved.

Roxanne submitted the draft minutes for the August 28th meeting for review and approval. Sue moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Roxanne seconded. Approved.

Updates on Town issues or Board actions related to Sustainability/Conservation

- Climate Smart Community (CSC) Bronze certification and DEC joint press event (Sept 28)
Roxanne reminded the committee that there will be a press event on September 28th to highlight the success Tompkins County has achieved to become climate smart. The Town of Ulysses is also being recognized. The event is being held at the Taughannock Falls State Park overlook at 11:00 a.m.

Roxanne reported that Tompkins County is hiring a person to assist business owners on how they can evaluate energy efficiency and renewable energy options for new construction, renovation, and expansion projects. The program is called the Tompkins County Business Energy Advisor Program.

Roxanne also shared that there will be a meeting on October 9th at the Trumansburg Fire Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m as part of the most recent Heat Smart program.

- Zoning Law Update
Roxanne tabled this agenda item until later in the meeting so that a committee member arriving late would be included in the discussion.

- Clean Energy Community (CEC) Grant for Town Hall
Roxanne updated the committee on the progress of the CEC grant to replace the heating and air conditioning system in the Town Hall. The work is focusing on preparing the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

Old Business

- CSAC membership on Salo Drive Habitat Area Committee
Nancy noted that the Town Board will take up a resolution to form a committee to guide the process to establish guidelines for access and maintenance of the Salo Drive property. As currently proposed, Nancy noted that she is recommending two seats for members of the CSAC and she asked the committee who would like to serve. Don stated he would be interested and Bara stated she would serve as an alternate for Don. Nancy will submit the names to the Town Board for approval.

Nancy reported that on the advice from the town attorney, no hunting will be allowed on the property during the 2018 deer hunting season.

Nancy also reported that she will be meeting with members of the Rod and Gun Club this afternoon.

- Urban forestry proposal from 2017, possible RFP in 2018

Roxanne noted that if we want to apply for the Tree City designation applications for the next round are due December 31st. Don noted that the Village of Trumansburg has volunteers that are interested in serving on a Tree City committee. Roxanne noted that the Town and Village can perhaps work together to submit a joint application. The CSAC will continue the discussion at the October meeting. Roxanne will ask Andy to get the application information.

- Monthly meeting time – 4th Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Roxanne asked if the new meeting time is working for members. The recommendation was made to start the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and keep the meeting on the 4th Tuesday.

- Zoning Law Update and Discussion on submitting Committee comments on Draft Revised Zoning Law

Roxanne shared the latest version of the draft zoning law with the committee. She noted that the Town Board and Zoning Update Steering Committee (ZUSC) will meet on September 26th to allow the Town Board to get clarification from the ZUSC on the rationale for the recommendations related to putting a cap on land subdivisions for non-agricultural land uses in the Agriculture Zone.

Roxanne noted that comments on the current draft are due to the Town Board on September 30th. She asked the committee if they wanted to submit comments as a committee or as individuals. The consensus of the group was to submit comments as a committee. Roxanne will draft the committee comment document based on the statements committee members made at this meeting and send a draft out for final approval by email.

Possible Future Projects

Discussion of agenda items tabled for future meetings.

- CSC program goals, actions, opportunities (including grants, 2 cycles per year, July and Jan?)
- Solar law – review Ag and Markets guidance document need to finish up
- Tools for supporting agriculture and land conservation funding, CSAC subcommittee?
- review of Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Town of Ulysses – comments / suggestions for CCE, next steps – (Roxanne, Brice, others?)

Roxanne scheduled the next meeting of the CSAC for Tuesday, October 23rd, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.