

Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes of August 28, 2018 meeting

Present: Roxanne Marino, Don Ellis, Bara Hotchkiss, Robert Oswald, Sue Poelvoorde, John Zepko, Liz Thomas

Excused: Andy Hillman, Brice Smith, Nancy Zahler

Roxanne called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Roxanne noted that the June 27th meeting minutes are not available for review and approval and will be taken up at the September meeting.

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

- Environmental Planner – meet and greet

Roxanne introduced John Zepko the Town's new Environmental Planner. The committee introduced themselves to John. John shared his background and the Town tasks he is currently working on. He looks forward to being able to assist the CSAC in the future after working through the zoning code update.

- Zoning Law Update

Roxanne shared information on the work of the Zoning Update Steering Committee (ZUSC). The next public information meeting is scheduled for August 30th. The current version of the updates will be presented by the consultants. The Town Board and John will be at the session. All updates and meeting information is located on the Town's website. Bara suggested another digital outlet to share information about the zoning update to help share the correct information about the updates.

- Clean Energy Community (CEC) Grant for Town Hall

Roxanne updated the committee on the progress of the CEC grant noting that the contract with NYSERDA is signed and the first \$25,000 has been released to the Town. The remaining amount, \$75,000, will be released at the completion of the project. The next step is to develop the RFP for contractors. She, Michael Boggs, Liz Thomas, Tom Myers, and Brice Smith are working on this step.

- Climate Smart Community (CSC) – Bronze Designation

Roxanne reported that the Town received its Bronze designation under the CSC program. On September 28th the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) will hold a press event in Tompkins County to highlight the success achieved in the county. DEC asked the Town to provide a list of accomplishments. Liz, Nancy and Roxanne pulled the list together and it illustrated just how successful the Town has been. We can be very proud. Roxanne also noted that September 24th – 28th is Climate Week.

Old Business

- Town of Ulysses Salo Drive Habitat Area – Draft guidelines

Roxanne noted that Nancy shared, via email, a draft outline of items that should be covered by an oversight committee in a plan for the use and maintenance of the Salo Drive Habitat Area. Liz Thomas joined the meeting to discuss the project. Liz noted that the Town Board will not take up any detailed

actions on this project until 2019 as they are busy with the 2019 budget process, the zoning code update and the CEC project.

The committee discussed Nancy's list and how a plan for the property could be implemented with help of community members.

- Urban forestry proposal from 2017, possible RFP in 2018

Roxanne noted that in Andy's absence this item will be tabled until the next meeting. Don noted that he has not discussed the Tree City USA application with the Village of Trumansburg.

Possible Future Projects

- Climate Smart Communities Program

Roxanne noted that the committee should review the list to see if there are other projects the Town could undertake with grant assistance from New York State.

- Solar Law – Ag & Markets Guidelines

Roxanne will forward the Ag & Markets guidance document to the committee for review and future discussion.

- Tools for Supporting Agriculture and Land Conservation

Roxanne noted that when she was the Town Supervisor she very briefly started to investigate the process that would allow the Town to establish a dedicated fund to support agriculture and conserve important land in the Town of Ulysses. Municipalities can levy up to a 2% tax on real estate transfers and dedicate the proceeds to land conservation. The committee discussed potential projects that could be funded from a dedicated fund source. Roxanne, Sue and Don expressed interest in working on this project.

- Review of Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Roxanne noted that she still needs to work with Brice to finalize the edits for this document and get them to Terry Carroll to update the Town's inventory.

Roxanne scheduled the next meeting of the CSAC for Tuesday, September 25th, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.