

## Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes of December 4, 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 4:39 p.m.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Roxanne noted that the minutes from the October meeting were not available for approval and tabled the item.

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

#### ● Zoning Law Update

Nancy reported out on the Zoning Law update noting that the Town Board has had several special meetings to work through the updates proposed by the Zoning Update Steering Committee. After the Town Board completes their review and makes the changes they believe are appropriate, they will release another draft for public review. They anticipate that they will hold a series of informal meetings where the public can ask questions as to how it could personally affect the individual's property. She expects the meetings will be held in January and February. The final meeting for the Town Board to review the draft is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### ● Salo Drive Property

Nancy reported out that the Salo Drive property boundaries have been marked with the help of Marvin Pritts. Also, the Village of Trumansburg DPW helped remove trash located on the parcel. Don laid out a small parking area off Salo Drive and will work with the Village to finalize the plan.

Roxanne noted that a new resident of the Town of Ulysses might be interested in joining the committee. She will be reaching out to the person and will keep the committee informed if a new member will join.

### **Old Business**

#### ● Application for Tree City Designation

Roxanne noted that due to the fast-approaching deadline for the Tree City USA application for 2018, December 31<sup>st</sup>, neither the Village of Trumansburg nor the Town of Ulysses will have time to pull together the application for the deadline. Don noted that the Village is looking for a model ordinance that they can adopt with respect to tree maintenance and replacement. CSAC is interested in taking this up in 2019.

#### ● Environmental Management Council's (EMC) Waste Reduction Committee's proposed ban on single-use plastic bags, status of project.

Roxanne reported that the EMC is still researching the option to ban single-use plastic bags in Tompkins County. Anne Koreman, the Town's County Legislator, attended the Town Board meeting to present the idea. She noted that the County Legislature would like to hear from towns and villages where they stand on the ban. Anne has offered to come to a CSAC meeting in 2019 to update us; Roxanne will keep in touch with Anne on this. This proposal is moving slowly through the County Legislature committees.

- Draft zoning law – CAFOs and animal waste storage facilities as special permit uses

The committee continued to discuss possible additions to the proposed zoning law design standards for reviewing and approving these two types of facilities if new large-scale farm operations are proposed within the Town's borders. The committee also discussed impacts related to changing agricultural practices in the Town with respect to larger farm operations, including farms not located within the Town, spreading liquid manure on fields across the Town. The impacts on surface and ground water, air quality and land use must be considered more stringently. All of the impacts could create substantial economic hardships on rural home owners.

Roxanne asked members to bring specific thoughts for additions to design standards for the next meeting in January. Roxanne and Robert will research and send additional information to help guide the discussion.

### **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, January 22nd, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.**