Town of Grand Island Conservation Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes August 23, 2018

Members present: Bob Wynne, Jim Czapla, Sam Akinbami, Alice Gerard, Tom Burke, Ed Standora, Paul Yaeger, Diane Evans, Mike Madigan (Town Board liaison to CB).
Excused: Jeff Green, Suzanne Tomkins
Visitors: Bob Eddy

Meeting called to order (7:06 Diane Evans).
Minutes from June 28 meeting approved (moved by Alice, seconded Jim) carried 8 - 0.

Sam Akinbami: Suggested the Board observe a moment of silence in tribute to recently deceased member Ron Rezabek.

1. Planning Board: Diane described a proposal (presented at previous Planning Board Meeting) for a commercial hydroponic growing operation on Lang Blvd. Diane also stated that Granger Pond on Staley Rd. has been approved.

2. Tree Ordinance: Board members discussed and worked upon proposed tree ordinance.

   Alice Gerard: Stated that meeting with Lori Brockelbank of Davey Tree had been a great help in refining the draft tree ordinance.

   Diane Evans: Announced that she and Suzanne Tomkins had met with Rhonda Tollner (of Town code enforcement office) and Town Clerk Pattie Frentzel regarding permitting and enforcement of the proposed tree ordinance. Code enforcement personnel commented that they are short staffed and typically only respond to complaints of code violations.

   Mike Madigan: Suggested board members consult with department heads in code enforcement and engineering for further input.
Ed Standora: Commented that Cheektowaga Ordinance (copy provided by Suzanne Tomkins) was adopted in 1992 and that Grand Island is a quarter century behind.

Sam Akinbami: Commented that tree ordinance should be kept as simple as possible.

Mike Madigan: Following lengthy session (in which details of tree ordinance draft were discussed) posed question as to who ultimately approves tree removal permits in Amherst, Cheektowaga etc.? Would permit ultimately be approved by Town Board?

3. Town Board: Mike Madigan reported on ongoing improvements to Community Center in Nike facility on Whitehaven Rd.

Mike Madigan: Stated that Town of Grand Island was in for a very difficult budget year and will experience great difficulty staying under a spending cap.

Mike Madigan: Informed board members that the newly constructed Visitor Center on Alvin Rd. was in the process of tying into the Town’s sewer system.

Mike Madigan: In response to question from board member; stated that his proposed Town Law prohibiting disruption to wetlands in a solar farm is still in the works.

4. RFQQ Update: Diane Evans Informed board that Nancy Smith (CEO of WNYLC) has the Open Space Inventory Agreement from Town of Grand Island and will be responding.

5. Diane Evans: Initiated discussion of Tribute to Ron Rezabek (recently deceased Board member). Diane stated that she will speak with Denise Rezabek (Ron’s widow) for advisement.

Mike Madigan: Suggested the CAB vote to recommend posthumous recognition of Ron Rezabek by Town of Grand Island.
Motion: Bob Wynne (seconded Ed Standora) That CAB recommend Town of Grand Island extend posthumous recognition for the efforts and dedication of Ron Rezabek). Approved Ayes 8 Nay-0

6. Alice Gerard: Posed the question, “How much money has accrued from the Town’s $500.00 per lot fee charged to developer’s?” Alice further questioned whether money from this fund had been used recently and, if so, to what purpose.

Mike Madigan: Stated that he will obtain that information.

7. Motion to adjourn (Bob moved, seconded by Alice ) carried 8-0.
    adj. 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Burke