Conservation Advisory Board  
Grand Island  
Meeting Minutes  
June 28, 2018

Present: Jeff Green, Tom Burke, Ron Rezabek, Bob Wynne, Diane Evans, Sue Tomkins, Paul Yeager, Alice Gerard, Sam Akinbami, Mike Madigan  
Excused: Ed Standora, Jim Czapla. Guest: Bob Eddy. Meeting called to order at 7:07pm by Jeff Green.

1. Consent Agenda - Minutes from May 24 meeting approved. Diane moved, Tom seconded. Carried. 8-0.

2. RFQQ (Request for Qualifications and Quote) Update - Town Board requested that we add more details to the deliverables, but the response from WNYLC (LC) has been approved. WNYLC requires a contract. The Town does not. Mike and Peter Godfrey will look over contract and advise on it. Project Manager is now Rachel Chrostowski. Jeff will set up a meeting with LC for us to get going on the project. It will not be a regular meeting night. All members are invited. We will also invite Jim Sharpe.

3. Planning Board Meeting - Sue summarized public hearing on SolarPark Energy Project, Whitehaven Road. Diane read comments that CAB prepared. (Jeff wrote the comments and we all agreed they represented us very well.) Some neighbors to the property spoke about how it would change their view negatively. Dave Reilly made the point that this might encourage other property owners to clear their land in anticipation of leasing or selling to a solar company.

4. Solar Park Update - Project approval is contingent on completion of the SEQR and tree inventory report. We looked at the report from Wilson Environmental Technologies. In future, we need to ask developers more detailed questions such as: Have you walked the property? What did you see? Do you have approval from DEC and Army Corps?

Tom and Bob attended the solar seminar for municipalities held at Reinstein Woods. They said it was very instructive and shared a booklet they received.

5. Tree Ordinance - We need to make our ordinance more palatable. We want to become a Tree City USA. An ordinance is required for that. We discussed including language about tree maintenance and education. The following people agreed to meet before our next meeting to re-work the ordinance: Bob, Sue, Alice, Jeff, Diane, and Ed. Diane will contact Lori Brockelbank from Davey Tree Resource Group to consult with us on the draft. She has worked with many local towns on their ordinances and management plans. Diane will inform all when a date is set up.
Diane reported that the Town is almost ready to submit its application for Round 14 of the DEC grants for a tree inventory. Grant will total about $50,000, if awarded. We missed by just a few points last year. We are hoping to get it this time around.

6. Master Plan Committee for Nike Base - Diane wants to resign from the committee (time pressures). Both Tom and Sam said they were interested in going. Diane will contact Joe Menter, the chair.

7. Town Board Report - Mike reported that he will introduce an addendum to the Solar Law concerning requirements for wetlands protection. July 16 will be a public hearing on this addendum. Mike also is proposing a public hearing on the sewer hookup for the Welcome Center on July 16.

The Town Bd. has approved the renovation of the community center building at the Nike Base. In phase one the asbestos will be removed and the room opened up. Concerns remain about the bathrooms and boiler room.

Garbage pickup problems in the Town were explained. The Town is working on solutions to the problems. The contract with the current company is almost up, so the situation will be evaluated.

8. Announcements/comments - Diane announced a grant opportunity called “Trees for Tribs.” She’ll look into it. Diane will not be at July 26 meeting, so a note-taker will be needed. July 9 is next planning board meeting. PILOT monies should go toward conservation, not just Parks and Rec. We need to inform WNYLC on what we want out of the open space plan.

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Bob moved, Alice seconded. Carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Evans
Secretary