Conservation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018

Present: Jeff Green, Alice Gerard, Ron Rezabek, Bob Wynne, Sue Tomkins, Diane Evans, Ed Standora, Paul Yaeger, Mike Madigan. Absent: Sam Akinbami Guest: Bob Eddy.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Jeff Green

   Note: CAB sent letter to Town Board concerning proposed zoning law after February meeting.

2. RFQ - Request for Quote. This is required for CAB to do before contracting with any outside agency or group, like the WNY Land Conservancy, for services. We discussed the scope of the project and what deliverables we want. We want to update the open space inventory that was created when we became an advisory board. We decided we want guidance in preparing an open space plan: including inventories, tools for prioritizing preservation of open space, and seeking input from the community. We would like written documentation of the final plan.

   Jeff will draft an RFQ, send it out to us via email. We need to respond by Wed., March 28 Jeff will send to Mike. Mike will take this before a Town Board meeting for approval and then it goes on to the attorney. Mike will let us know if we need to be present at a Board meeting.

3. Open Space List - Jeff showed us a new map of open space, both private and public, in Grand Island. There are 83 parcels. We identified a few parcels that we feel will need protection from development.

4. Comprehensive Plan - Diane gave an update on the status of the plan. All changes and suggestions have been included. CPL will finalize the plan by end of March. Town Board will set a public hearing in April.

5. Alternate Member - The Town Board has advertised this in the Dispatch. We should contact anyone we know who is interested. March 30 is last day to apply.

6. Planning Board Report. Bob, Ed, Paul and Diane reported about the meeting with planning board members, after their main meeting, on March 12, 2018. We presented to them reasons for a tree ordinance. We pointed out parts of the Town code that already ask developers to replace trees they’ve cut. Question was raised why this is not implemented and enforced. Other parts of the code and design standards should be reviewed and implemented.

   It was decided we will continue to have one to two members attend each planning
board meeting so that we can keep abreast of developments. April 9 meeting will be attended by Sue and Alice. May 14 meeting will be attended by Bob and Diane. Mike let us know that Phase 2 of Heron Pointe will be presented at the April meeting.

7. Town Board Report - Mike reported on the zoning law against truck stops. It has been approved by the Town Board. The public hearing for it was well-attended and no one spoke in favor of allowing truck stops.

Mike reported on the new welcome center, under construction. It will be producing about 10,000 gallons of water/waste daily. At issue is the lack of septic tanks in the plan. There are three options for the state to accommodate the waste water. One is that they can (or have?) put in three holding tanks. These are not designed to be used long-range. Two, the center can tap into the sewer district east of the 190. This would set a precedence. Three, the state needs to create a wastewater treatment system just for this facility.

The Town is investigating putting in LED bulbs for street lights.

8. Additional News/Announcements
Ron reported on his last meeting with the Erie County Water Quality committee, including grants that could be applied for.

Diane told about a birding group she has met with twice to promote birding on Grand Island. The group has decided to seek leaders for several bird walks this year. She asked for the support of the CAB in spreading the word and helping with educational materials. Motion: The CAB supports the effort to offer bird walks several times a year for the Grand Island community. Ron so moved. Ed seconded. Carried 8 to 0.

Diane asked if the CAB would support a highway clean up that the Trinity Methodist Church youth group and members would like to do on Sunday, April 29. Diane is working with Dick Crawford, to choose the best location. If the CAB supports this, the volunteers will be protected under the Town’s liability insurance. Motion: The CAB moves to give support to a clean up to be conducted on April 29 along a road, yet to be determined, on Grand Island. Bob so moved. Alice seconded. Carried 8 to 0.

It was suggested we speak to the Agricultural Steering Committee to co-sponsor some educational programs. We’ll discuss the Tree Ordinance next meeting. Ron suggested exploring the idea of planting milkweed seeds/plants in the field along South Parkway and Ferry Rd, in the State Park. Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:05 pm. Bob so moved, Alice seconded. Carried 8 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Evans
Recording Secretary