Conservation Advisory Board of Grand Island
November 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes


Jeff Green called meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. Consent Agenda - Minutes from Oct. 25, 2018 were approved. Bob made the motion, Diane seconded. Carried 8 to 0. (Changed order on agenda. no. 2 follows No. 3)

2. Restoration Projects on Niagara River - Several members attended presentation at Kaegebein Elementary School concerning Niagara River Habitat Restoration Project, Nov. 15, 2018. The projects have received $10 million. These are joint projects involving NYS DEC, the US EPA, and NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Detailed maps, photos, designs and goals were part of the presentation. Members reported on it. Handouts from the program were passed out. There was much discussion about the projects. Of major concern was the degradation of and around Grass Island, and the projected reaction that recreational boaters may have. Bob moved that we write a letter of support for the four habitat restoration projects along our shoreline and send to the project manager. Alice seconded. Carried: 8 to 0. Tom and Diane will draft a letter and send it to all members to comment on. Once approved letter will go to David Spiering, Project Manager. Individual members are encouraged to write their own letter of support. We will post the presentation, from Nov. 15, on Town’s CAB web page and send to Isle de Grande. The link is also on NYS Parks, Buckhorn Island State Park.

3. Western New York Land Conservancy - We decided our kickoff meeting will be on Dec. 20 at our regularly scheduled meeting. We want the meeting to include a review of the three phases of the open space inventory project. We need to know what is expected of us, and how this project fits in with the other WNYLC project that involves private land on Grand Island. We will ask if this meeting is considered one of the three work meetings in the contract. Diane will contact Rachel to verify these items. We will invite Bev Kinney to attend, and also a couple of people from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Diane will resend to members the Local Open Space Planning Guide, from New York State.

4. Tree Ordinance - Mike will check with Pattie Frentzel to be sure copies of the ordinance were sent to chairs of Planning Bd, Economic Development Advisory Bd, and Parks and Rec Advisory Bd.

5. Committee/Board Meetings - Jeff will contact the chairs of Planning Bd., Economic
Development Bd, and Parks and Rec. Advisory Bd. by phone to get onto their agendas to explain the tree ordinance. Our members should get any names to Jeff of potential members of a Tree Advisory Subcommittee. Our presence at Planning Bd. meetings was discussed. It was decided that Jeff, who receives the agenda for each meeting, will let all of us know if something relevant is on the agenda, and request that someone attend the meeting.

6. Town Board Report - Budget for 2019 has been approved. We will stay under the 2% tax cap. Three Union contracts are being negotiated. Unions are: CSEA, Teamsters and AFLCIO.

7. Additional News/Announcements - Diane reported that a “Footprint Festival” is being planned for January 26 at Beaver Island State Park. This will include dog sled demos, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter volleyball games, ice sculpture demo, a bonfire at River Lea, amongst other activities. Publicity is almost ready to hand out.

Diane asked if anyone would like to join her to form a subcommittee on education programs. We have not offered any in a few years. Sue, Alice, Tom and Jim expressed interest in this.

Tom reported that WNYLC is setting up a meeting in mid-December, with land owners that surround the new Gallogly Nature Sanctuary. He suggested Joe Mentor be contacted since the Nike Base borders the sanctuary.

At 8:36 pm Alice made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Bob seconded. Carried: 8 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Evans
Secretary