Conservation Advisory Board of Grand Island
October 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes


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

1. Consent agenda. Minutes from Sept. 27 meeting approved with three minor corrections. Alice moved to approve, Bob seconded. Carried: 8 Yes, 0 No

2. WNYLC Contract Status We discussed the terms of the RFP and RFQ. It was decided that the contract language is in sync with our original plan for the project. We agreed the extent of the project is to update the open space inventory, complete environmental assessments of the properties and decide on parameters to prioritize land use and future projects. We recognize that we will get a report but not a completed open space plan. We would like to seek a future funding source for that. We agreed that the contract will be presented to the Town Board at their Nov. 5th meeting, for approval. Mike has put it on the agenda. Jeff, Diane, and Sam agreed to be at the Monday night meeting. Others are encouraged to attend.

Motion: The contract agreement, with the Western New York Land Conservancy does reflect the tasks and deliverables the CAB requested. We recommend the agreement be approved by the Town Board and signed by the Supervisor. Jeff moved. Ed seconded Carried: 8, 0

3. Tree Ordinance There was much discussion about the changes made in the ordinance at the September meeting. The most significant changes were on page 5 describing when a permit is needed for private land owners. Other changes were made to the second paragraph on page 6 referring to mitigation measures. We agreed that the ordinance is ready to present to the Town Board, and be disseminated to other advisory boards. Jeff will compose a cover letter to go with the ordinance.

Motion: Bob moved that the tree ordinance be presented to the Town Board at their next workshop meeting, along with the cover letter. Jim seconded. Carried 8 to 0

4. West River Connector Trail Opening Several CAB members attended the grand opening of the trail on Saturday, October 27. It was festive and well-attended. There were people of all ages who biked or walked on the trail after the ribbon was cut. There will be three parking areas for the public to access the trail: one at Fix Rd., Whitehaven, and Eagle Outlook. Parking areas at Buckhorn and Beaver Island State Parks will also be access points.
5. Membership  Mike will seek approval for Jim Czapla to become a voting member of the CAB. He will replace Ron Rezabek. Town Board needs to approve. He will also check to see if we can choose a second alternate from people we interviewed at the beginning of the year.

6. Town Board Report  The 2019 town budget is being considered right now. Mike reports that it is a struggle to stay within the tax cap. Sewer fees will be increased by 27%. Union contracts are being re-negotiated. The design has been completed for renovations to the community building at the Nike Base. The wood being stored at Vets Park will be used to build small picnic pavilions. The CAB currently has $250 in its budget. If projects come up during the year that need some funding, we can seek approval from the Town Board for them.

7. Additional News/Announcements
   Ed reported that Grand Island resident, Rob Tyrell, is interested in purchasing property near the high school to be used for science education.

   Alice reported that Sharon Bachman would like to pursue a pollinator program in the GI schools. Alice will look into this.

   Tom would like to begin a project on building kestrel nesting boxes, and placing them in local grasslands. Tom showed a map of the Gallogly Nature Sanctuary, in relation to Town land on the Nike Base. He described the need for a bridge over what is now referred to as a “fair weather crossing.” (Crossing Big Sixmile Creek) We will eventually need signage along the borders of these two properties. Tom encouraged us to walk on the trails that are being constructed at Scenic Woods. There is a small parking area at the end of Sturbridge Lane.

   Jim asked how we get to see SEQRA documents submitted to engineering. Mike will check with Bob Westfall.

   Diane announced that the Long Range Planning Committee that prepared the new Master Plan is now beginning work on updating the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). They will work with Clark Patterson Lee. Diane passed out suggested tasks for a Tree Advisory Subcommittee, when it is formed. She also suggested questions to ask of prospective members.

Reminder:  Next two meeting dates:  November 29 and December 20.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm. Alice moved, Bob seconded. Carried 8 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Evans
Secretary