Conservation Advisory Board of Grand Island  
Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2019

Present: Bob Wynne, Paul Yaeger, Jeff Green, Alice Gerard, Diane Evans.  

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Jeff Green.

1. Blue Water Marina presentation - Tom Stedman, who runs Blue Water with his father, presented some ideas for shoreline improvements at the south end of their property, extending onto State Park land. The shallow water there is good for ice fishing and has bullheads and pike. He suggested the state might want to build a fishing pier there that would be handicapped accessible, and perhaps a new boat launch. Either would be a benefit to his business. It would also be protection for the marina from boat wakes. He asked for our feedback. We expressed concerns about providing adequate parking and being aware of not interrupting fish spawning there. We suggested he get in touch with Greg Brown, manager of Beaver Island State Park, Dave Spiering who is in charge of the river restoration project south of that area and Mark Mistretta, Director of the Western Region of State Parks. It was a positive exchange.

2. Consent Agenda - Jeff moved that we accept minutes from the January 24, 2019 meeting with a few minor changes. Alice seconded. Carried.

3. Restoration Projects - any updates? Mike reported that Dave Spiering and he have been in touch. Dave is re-looking at the design. The SEQR needs to be in, in early April. We will have access to it. Bids will go out in June. Construction is set to begin after September.

In light of recent flood warnings, because of high water caused by excessive winds, the question was raised: Does the Town have an emergency plan in place? Answer: No.

4. CAB Education Programming Update - Three programs are being planned.

   A. Spicer Creek Presentation by Waterkeeper - Diane met with John Grabowski and Emily Root to plan an outreach program about the $500,000 grant for work on shoreline improvements along Spicer Creek, in River Oaks. Part of the grant application included assistance from the CAB to offer an outreach program for the community and to volunteer to plant vegetation along the shoreline (planting won’t occur until spring 2020). We decided the program will include an introduction by CAB to explain how and why the project was launched, presentations by Waterkeeper staff on the project, as well as the one at Little Beaver Island. We will contact DEC to see if someone will give an update on their project at the mouth of Spicer on East River Rd. The CAB will provide a location and do publicity. Event will be offered one night of week of May 13 - 17.
B. Composting Program with Grand Island Farms - March 28, 2019 This will be held at the Welcome Center, 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Flyers are being printed. We've been asked to help disseminate flyers, spread the word on social media and help pay for printing and speaker. Speaker’s share will be $25.

A motion was made to contribute $25 to the speaker and some funding for printing costs (unknown at this time). Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Paul. Carried. Mike said we need to take invoices to Pam Barton at Town Hall.

Important Note: Because of this event, we have changed our CAB meeting to begin at 7:30 pm, at the Welcome Center, in the conference room. Diane will make sure the change in location and time gets posted on the website. It is okay with WNYLC who will be meeting with us that night.

C. Arbor Day Program - It has been discovered that the Grand Island Farms is planning a program on April 27, 2019 to include a tree planting and tree seedling give away. We do not know all the details yet. We had begun planning a similar event for May 4, because it is after students and teachers are back from the spring recess. The school wants to participate in this. The Viking Mall, inside the High School, is available to use if we need an indoor space. We’d like to offer a program plus planting. Jeff will meet on March 6 with personnel from the High School to determine status of tree planting(s). It was discussed whether we should combine with the April 27 event, or run two separate events on consecutive Saturdays. A final decision was not made.

5. Grand Island Master Plan - Diane reported that the LRPC wants each advisory board to look at their goals expressed in the new Master Plan. We need to determine priorities and give updates to our progress. A spreadsheet was provided for us to make comments on specific objectives. Please see attached document. We are already making progress on our objectives. During the discussion people expressed the desire to see SEQRs for every project. As of now, the CAB gets one copy for each SEQR that is included in Planning Board agendas/packets. Mike will look into how we can have more access to these.

6. Tree Ordinance - Jeff, Paul and Diane shared comments from the Economic Development Advisory Bd. meeting they attended. The EDAB is not in favor of putting any restrictions on landowners concerning removal of trees. They also raised issues about the formation and makeup of the tree advisory board. We had much more discussion about the ordinance. Concern about Tree City USA requirements for an ordinance were raised. Since our next monthly meeting will be with WNYLC on the open space inventory it was suggested we call an extra meeting this month to talk more about the ordinance. Two potential dates were chosen: March 12, at the Welcome Center, or March 22, at Town Hall. Diane will canvas members via email.

7. Town Board Report - Mike reported that construction on the renovations at the Nike Base Community Center will begin in June. The issue of two recent thefts from Town
employees was reported. The Town is hiring a CPA to do an assessment to mitigate the risk of future losses.

8. Additional news/announcements - The next Planning Board meeting is March 11. The agenda was passed around. The Tree Inventory grant that was applied for from DEC was denied for the second time. Diane, Dick Crawford and our grant writers, Bernie Rotella and Nathan Taylor, had a conference call with a DEC rep to go over how we could improve our score for the next round. One way to earn a few more points is to become a Tree City USA!

Bob moved that we adjourn at 9:24 pm. Alice seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Evans
Secretary