Conservation Advisory Boards of Grand Island
June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Alice Gerard, Jim Czapla, Tom Burke, (Alt.) Sue Tomkins, Diane Evans, Bob Wynne, Jeff Green, Sam Akinbami, Forrest Crawford, (Alt.) Liaison, Mike Madigan. **Excused:** Paul Yaeger and Ed Standora.

**Guests:** Judy Schmidt, Bob Eddy, Jenn Baney, Victoria and Mark Sadkowski, and Kristin Savard.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

1. **Thermo Fisher Expansion** – Kristin Savard, from Advanced Design Group, explained plans for the expansion and new driveway in great detail. All the environmental concerns we had were addressed including: wetland delineation, permits to fill in wetlands, off-site mitigation, SPEDES permit, travel of semis on Staley Road, and concerns with neighbors over truck traffic on the new driveway. The site plan has been approved by the Planning board.

   Bob made the following motion, seconded by Jim. **Motion:** The CAB approves of the site plan for Thermo Fisher’s expansion as presented to us on June 27. We commend Advanced Design Group, Thermo Fisher and the neighbors for working together to find solutions to concerns. Voted 9 to 0. Carried. Jeff will send a letter to the Town Board, expressing our approval of the site plan, and that the parties involved have addressed our concerns.

2. **Consent Agenda** – Minutes from May 23rd meeting were approved with a few minor changes. Bob moved to approve, Alice seconded. Carried 9 to 0.

3. **Tree Ordinance** - Comments from other boards were acknowledged: Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), Planning Board, and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. EDAB and Parks and Rec sent comments to Town Board. Planning Board expressed concerns in their meeting notes from May meeting. Diane made reference to the letter she sent to fellow CAB members, objecting to the ordinance as currently written. Jeff will write letter to Town Board. According to Mike the topic is on the Planning Board agenda for July 8. Members were encouraged to attend.
4. **Trail Maintenance.** – Sue raised the issue of mowing along the West River Connector Trail. The original plan was that the state would mow 50% of the area and leave 50% not mowed. West River residents met with Mark Mistretta, from State Parks expressing their disapproval. The amount to mow/not mow was changed to 80%/20%. Mike said the state agreed to twelve cuttings for the year. Jim brought up the idea that we need to develop more of a relationship with the State Parks.

Judy Schmidt, Chair of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board announced that trail work continues at Scenic Woods. Wayfinding signs have been put up at Eagle Outlook and Big Six Marina. A new master plan for the Town parks is in progress. The Gazebo, in Town Commons will be replaced and will have a handicapped ramp to it.

4a. **WNYLC Open Space Inventory Map** – Rachel Chrostowski asked that we look at the map she generated one more time. She asked if there are locations with rare animal/plant species. We suggested she change the category for the solar park on Whitehaven, as it is no longer forested. Also, we suggested she extend a couple of creeks to the river, that don’t go that far on the 2016 map.

5. **Town Board Report** – Mike is working on drafting a local law requiring the CAB to review any site plans that include wetlands, streams, shorelines and EEDs. He is currently working with the lawyer on that. We want to receive the site plans at the same time the Planning Board gets them.

6. **Additional News/Announcements** - Upcoming events are Kid Biz, July 13, Paddles Up/Summer Fest 2019, July 27. The Summer Fest will include a slow roll on the West River Connector Trail, kids zone full of activities, food trucks, and more. This follows the success of the Footprint Festival in January. Boy Scouts do their planning for the year in August.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm. Bob moved, Alice seconded. Carried 9 – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Evans
Recording Secretary

*Next Meeting: July 25, 2019*