Grand Island
Conservation Advisory Board
Meeting minutes
December 14th, 2017


Chair Diane Evans called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Reappointment to the Conservation Advisory Board: Paul Yaeger is being appointed for a full five-year term.

Secretary for December meeting: Alice Gerard

November Minutes: Bob Wynne moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections, and Jeff Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation: Science Demands Action, represented by Anam Hussain and Ines Stuckert. Science Demands Action has, among its members, engineers and biologists. The goal is to make science more accessible to nonscientists. The goal is to reach different communities. Ines Stuckert: “We have a good reach online, with 2,000 followers on Facebook.” Discussion was held about a proposed plastic bag ban. Ines suggested changing the language of the proposed law by replacing the word “plastic” with “non-biodegradable” and the word “paper” with “biodegradable.” According to Diane Evans, the Economic Development Advisory Board suggested running a campaign to promote multi-use bags. Discussion ensued. Anam Hussain said that people of her age group are very supportive of a bag ban. She suggested campaigning in schools, as well as holding a door-to-door campaign. Other recommendations included a bag designing contest and a table at the farmers market, where bags could be handed out.

Tree ordinance update: Ed Standora and Bob Wynne: the ordinance is being sent to all advisory boards for comments.

Updates:
Benderson owns Tops Plaza and wants to put a building near Key Bank. The building would face Grand Island Boulevard and would have three or four tenants. It would be commercial and would include a little café/restaurant. This is in the works.
Solar arrays: the solar company that will install panels in the industrial area by the Thruway had to make changes in their plan because National Grid required them.

**Town Board:** no report.

**West River multi-use trail:** the state is ready to put the project to bid.

**CAB email address:** Diane Evans mentioned there are two valid email addresses: conservation@grand-island.ny.us and environment@grand-island.ny.us. These are receive-only addresses. Emails coming in will be distributed to Diane, or whoever is the current chair.

**Town website:** educational website could go on the Conservation Advisory Board section here.

**Alternate member:** Discussion ensued about this. Jeff Green suggested that we read New York State law because conservation advisory boards have very specific rules. He asked if we should discuss the issue of an alternate member with the town attorney. Also, Alice Gerard suggested inviting high school-aged people to participate in the board in this way.

**Maps:** Clark Patterson Lee wants us to identify open space that we do not want to see developed.

**Enhanced Environmental District:** Sam Akinbami explained that enhanced environmental district is a paper designation indicating areas of significant characteristics for preservation. It needs significant review before permits for development can be issued. One newly proposed EED is Turtle Creek.

**Comprehensive plan:** Diane Evans said that is expected to be finished in January and put in place by March. If the open spaces are in the plan, we can seek funding. We need advice from the Western New York Land Conservancy about the land that needs protection. Our new contact person at the Western New York Land Conservancy is Marisa Riggi.

**Meeting to discuss open space:** scheduled for 9 a.m., January 4\(^{th}\). Creating wildlife corridors will be discussed.

**Guest comments:** Bob Eddy talked about protecting land on Grand Island.

**Next meeting:** January 25\(^{th}\), at 7 p.m.
Adjournment: Alice Gerard moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Yaeger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Gerard