Conservation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2018

Present: Sam Akinbami, Diane Evans, Jeff Green, Bob Wynne, Sue Tomkins, Mike Madigan. Excused: Ron Rezabek, Alice Gerard, Ed Standora.  
Guests: Bob Eddy and Nicole Gerber. Speakers: Nancy Smith and Marisa Riggi

Meeting called to order by Diane Evans at 7:04 pm. We welcomed Mike as our new liaison from the Town Board.

1. Minutes from December 14, 2017, meeting were approved after a few corrections were made. Sam moved to accept with corrections. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

2. New Officers: Diane announced that Jeff Green expressed interest in becoming chair of this board and Sue, vice-chair. Diane offered to be secretary. Sam made a motion to nominate these members for said offices, and to vote on approval: Jeff, for Chair, Sue for Vice-Chair, and Diane for secretary. Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. WNY Land Conservancy. Nancy Smith, CEO of WNY Land Conservancy (WNYLC), and Marisa Riggi, a new employee, introduced themselves. Marisa will be working closely with us. Nancy gave us a summary of what the Land Conservancy does. She shared photos and brochures of the towns of Clarence and East Aurora that have created open space plans by working with the WNYLC. She highlighted their projects in the Stella Niagara Preserve and the Restore the Gorge campaign. WNYLC will be under contract to work with the Town of Grand Island to develop an open space plan. Nancy asked us to think of open spaces that we want to be sure to preserve right now, how our EED’s are established, and if the WNYLC can be helpful in farmland protection.

Nancy gave an update on the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary on Whitehaven Rd. (Assumption Cemetery land - 140 acres). Letters are going out to some GI residents with the new brochure about the sanctuary, and requests for donations to build a trail system. CAB members took brochures to distribute. It was suggested we have a public program on the new sanctuary, which would highlight its features and raise awareness and interest in the trail development.

Nancy announced a program by Doug Tallamy on native plants on March 16, 7:00 pm, at the Power Vista. He is the author of, Bringing Nature Home.

4. Tree Ordinance
Sue, Bob and Diane reported on discussion about the ordinance at the January Planning Board meeting. Lots of negative feedback. Planning Bd did invite us to their meeting on Feb. 12, to discuss this more. They’d like to know “where we are coming from” and reasons for such a ordinance. Couldn’t we work within the design standards and landscaping regulations that are already in our code? Question was raised, do we want to push for acceptance of the ordinance as it, or are we willing to make modifications?

5. Planning Board Meeting Feb. 12
We decided that the following members should be ready to speak on select topics: Sam, on the GI Town Code and value of trees, Ed, on the other towns we researched. Paul, on Tree City USA. Diane on Buffalo Green Code. Would someone who didn’t make this meeting be willing to look at Grand Island’s Design Standards and Landscaping code? Our draft ordinance was sent out to Pat Marren for feedback. Parks and Rec. Advisory Board did not approve of the ordinance. We will be last on the Planning Bd’s agenda on the 12th.

6. Town Board Report - Mike had nothing new to tell us.

7. Additional Announcements. An alternate to our board was discussed. The state law concerning CAB’s only dictates that nine be the maximum number of members. Question was raised with the town lawyer about legality of this. No response yet from Peter Godfrey. Diane reported that Paul Leuchner suggested a high school student who is interested. Do we need to advertise for this position? Mike will look into that.

Updated GI map created by engineering was shown. We’ll spend more time with it in the future. We also can access maps digitally. Diane has asked CPL to include a map of EED’s in the draft comp plan.

February 28, 7:00 pm, in the High School there is a public meeting to present the draft comprehensive plan. Please attend and encourage others to.

Items to be sent out to members by Diane will be: CAB contact roster and schedule of Planning Board meetings/dates the packets are ready.

Bob made a motion to adjourn. Paul seconded Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Evans
Recording Secretary